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THE BOHUN WILLS, II

(Continued from the April number)

III

Will of Humphrey de Bohun, sixth (son of the fourth and brother of the fifth) Earl of Hereford of the name. Born about 1308; died, unmarried, in the Bohun castle of Plessy, Essex, October 15, 1361.¹ *Royal Wills*, 44, for the original.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen. The Sunday after Saint Denys, in October, in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand three hundred and sixty-one, we, Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and Lord of Brecknock, of sound and good memory, make our will in this manner. First, we bequeath our soul to God in reverence of the Trinity and of Saint Augustine, for whom we have great affection, and for the reason that God has bestowed upon us riches and honors in this world, which at the last are only vain glory, we bequeath our body to lie and be buried among the poor friars of the order of Saint Augustine, that is to say, in the choir of their church in London, in front of the high altar.² We do not wish that our executors should make for us, on the day of our burial, any common distribution among the poor, or that they should appear as great lords, neither the one nor the other, or that they should provide any feast on the day of our burial except only for a bishop who shall pray at our burial and for the poor friars and for our household, or that they should provide any herce except one for thirteen wax tapers,³ each of the weight of five pounds, and let them order our tomb according to what they consider proper and in whatsoever place we happen to die. We bequeath to the parson of the parish church of that place £ 20, provided that he pray for us and assoil us if we have done anything wrong against his church in [withholding] tithe offerings or in anything else,⁴ and release us from all manner of actions and challenges that he can

¹ He had been an invalid for many years, resigning in 1338 the Constablership of England, for that reason, in favor of his younger brother, the Earl of Northampton. *Fædera*, II. part iv. 23. Perhaps his state of health explains his not having married.

² The testator had rebuilt this church in 1354.

³ One for Christ and twelve for his apostles; this appears to be the meaning generally of the use of the number thirteen, which is quite common. See below in this will, 'thirteen chalices . . . in the name of God and of his twelve sweet apostles.'

⁴ A common provision in wills. 'I bequethe to the hygh auter of the same Church for my tythes and offrynges forgezeten and withdrauien, xl. s.' Will of John Toker,

have by reason of our burial [service?] and interment, in any respect ; and inasmuch as our soul will be at God's command, we wish that our executors shall send the body very privately to London with our confessor and other persons most of whom should be chaplains, and let it be buried there privately. We will also and wish that a pall shall be made, suitable for our body,¹ to remain in a certain place where our household shall stay until our burial shall be appointed, and that each day there shall be said for us the 'placebo et dirige'² and masses, and wax tapers [put] around this pall for us, each of three pounds, until the burial shall be had, and each night on the road where this pall shall conveniently rest, instead of our body, we wish that thirteen wax tapers shall be lighted around this pall while 'placebo,' 'dirige' and the mass next day shall be said, before our departure, and these wax tapers shall remain to the church in which the service shall be said if there be but one church in the place, and if there be two or more then the tapers shall be divided among them according to the direction of our confessor, to pray for us.³ We will also and wish that as soon as possible after our decease all our debts be paid, as well those which we have charged by word of mouth, which are proved, as the rest, and that accord and satisfaction be made to all persons to whom our executors can learn that we have done wrong or trespass in whatever way. We wish also and will that all our household remain together at our expense until each shall be paid that which we have bequeathed to him, according to what is contained below, and that each be charged that he shall take his pay to pray for us. We will also and wish that immediately after payment of our debts our executors shall deliver to brother William de Monkland, our confessor, to brother William Wilhale, Master of Divinity,⁴ and brother Geoffrey de Berdefeld three hundred marks of silver, with which to appoint and assign where they shall consider it of most importance fifty brethren of the same order, who are of good and holy life to chant masses, that is to say, 'placebo et dirige,' 'commendation,' and other devout prayers for us every day through the whole of the first year after our death, and that each of them chant for us the same year a full trental⁵ of masses, and that thirteen of the same fifty brethren keep vigil day and night in whatever place they are assigned at the discretion of the three brethren above named, some to relieve the others through the whole year aforesaid and say 'placebo et dirige,' psalters, and other devout prayers, and that the aforesaid brethren

1428, *Earliest English Wills*, 77. 'Also y bequethe to the hye Auter for my Offryng, yef any be foryeten, 6 s. viii. d.' Will of Richard Whyteman, 1428, id. 81.

¹ That is, there was to be a covered coffin, in representation, for the exercises following; the body itself having been sent on to London for burial.

² 'Placebo' is the first word in the vesper service for the dead; 'dirige' (whence 'dirge') the first word of the first anthem at matins for the dead. *Fifty Earliest English Wills*, 137.

³ That is, to the end that prayers be said for us in such churches. The language of wills is generally unstudied, and often irregular in syntax.

⁴ Synonym at the time of doctor of divinity.

⁵ Thirty full masses, in thirty days.

shall be sworn of this our will to do faithfully according to the requirement of our confessor and of the other two brethren named, under the oversight of our executors. And if one of the three brethren die, the two shall choose another in his place, under the oversight of our executors. We bequeath to the order of the friars aforesaid a tomb with tabernacles and finials,¹ and with stones for placing in view the body of our Lord, if the said tomb should remain to us after our decease, and to the same order a gold cup to be made into a chalice, and a white vestment of our chapel, and a black vestment on the borders of which are arms of England. And we wish that these things shall remain in the order, to serve where it may be considered best. And we wish that these things shall be provided by our executors, and that our said confessor appoint annual chantries² in the order of the value of the joys below³ mentioned for each year.⁴ We bequeath also to the three orders of mendicants in London, that is to say, to the Friars Preachers, Minorites, and Carmelites, to each house £10, to pray for us. We bequeath also to the students of the four orders of mendicants in Oxford and Cambridge, that is to say, the Friars Preachers, Minorites, Carmelites, and Saint Augustine, to each house £10, to pray for us. We bequeath also to our Abbey of Walden £100 of silver to be divided among the monks and to the profit of the house, to pray for us in this manner, that they pardon and assail us of whatever wrong we have done to them, if anything there be. We bequeath to our said abbey, to serve in the chapel of our Lady there, a silver-bound copy of the Gospels⁵ and a vestment of red velvet, with four garments. And for that we are held by a vow to offer in honor of our Lady, for the statue of our Lady in the said chapel of Walden, a large silver gilt crown, lined and having a stripe in the front and of a span in height, we wish that our executors have it made and offer it there, to remain upon the head of the said statue in perpetual memory of us. We bequeath also to our Priory of Lanthony near Gloucester 40 marks, to be distributed among the canons there and to the profit

¹ See Shaw's *Decorative Arts* for an example.

² Chantries — chapels — in which masses were to be said annually, *i.e.* on the day of the testator's death, his 'obit.'

³ The text is 'avantditz,' a slip for 'susditz.'

⁴ The meaning appears to be that the executors are to set apart funds enough for the celebrating the joys of the Virgin, according to the usual cost. Such provisions were common, the amount to be set apart for the purpose usually being specified, as below, 'five silver chalices in the name of the five joys of our Lady.' See also the will of John of Gaunt (1397), *Royal Wills*, 145, 153, where the testator gives to the high altar of the Friars Carmelites in London 'fifteen marks silver in honor of the fifteen joys of our Lady,' and makes another gift of 'five marks in honor of the five principal wounds of our Lord Jesus, and five marks in honor of the five joys of our Lady.'

As to the joys of the Virgin, see Bridgett, *Our Lady's Dowry*, ch. 3; Brewer's *Historic Note Book*, 329.

⁵ The original is 'tixt dargent.' The meaning is seen in the parallel passage of the will of Martin, Master of the Hospital of Sherburne (1259) — 'textum meum argenteum,' translated as above in *Our Lady's Dowry*, p. 375. See also 'Ordinatio de tixt writers et Lymnours,' *Liber Albus*, 715 (orig. 335 b).

of the house, and [will] that they pray for us. We will also and wish that our executors shall have a silver gilt chalice made of the weight of sixty shillings, to serve in the Chapel of the Trinity which shall be built by us at Lanthony, and that they buy for that [chapel] two pairs of vestments, that is to say, two albs, two amices with the attire ['tier'] which belongs to them, two chasubles of different suits of cloth of gold, with the altar attire ['tyr'] of the suit lined, and curtains, the one pair for day ferials,¹ the other pair for day festivals, and let them offer them altogether in the said Chapel of the Trinity which the prior and convent of our said house shall have built on our behalf in their said house, near the new chamber of the said prior, to remain in the said chapel in perpetual memory of us. And if the said chapel should be begun and not completed at our decease, we wish that our executors have it built entirely at our expense. And if the said chapel should not be begun before our decease, we wish that our executors should have built there a beautiful Chapel of the Trinity, all at our expense. We bequeath also to our Priory of Brecknock 100 marks, to be divided among the monks and to the profit of the house, provided they pardon and assoil us of whatever wrong we have done to them, and pray for us. We bequeath to the Friars Preachers of Brecknock £10, to pray for us, and to the Friars Preachers of Chelmsford £10, to pray for us. We bequeath to our priory of Farleigh 40 marks, to be divided among the monks, to pray for us, and to our Priory of Hurley £20, to be divided among the monks, to pray for us, and to our Priory of Notley 20 marks, to be divided among the canons, to pray for us, and to our Priory of Scoule² 20 marks, to pray for us. We bequeath also to our chapel in our castle of Plessy a chalice and a vestment of green with the garments, a missal, and an antiphoner to serve in the said chapel forever, for the salvation of our soul. We bequeath also to brother William de Monkland, our confessor, £100 of silver and a flat silver cup from which we are wont to drink, a small silver pot, six dishes and six saucers of silver, provided he remain where he can more specially pray for us. And we devoutly pray the provincial prior and all the order aforesaid to grant that the said brother William may stay there always, and that his room may be beautiful and honorable, and such as a master of divinity should have. We bequeath also to brother John de Teye, our illuminator ['luminour'],³ £10, to pray for us. We wish also and will that our executors have thirteen chalices made, in the name of God and of his twelve sweet apostles, and five silver chalices

¹ Holidays on which no feasts are to be celebrated. See Meagher, *Festal Year of the Church*, 60.

² Probably a misreading for Stoneley, or Stoneleigh, in Warwick. See *ante*, p. 425.

³ Limner or illuminator of manuscripts and books. 'Ordinatio de tixt-writers and lymnours,' *Liber Albus*, 715 (orig. 335 b). 'The business of the limner consisted in transcribing books and adorning them with vignettes and illuminated capital letters.' *Liber Albus*, Glossary, 'Lymnour.' Here we have the 'Scriptorium,' common to all the monasteries, in the house of a layman. See *ante*, p. 420, on this interesting fact. The word occurs again below, 'John Luminour.'

in the name of the five joys of our Lady,¹ and that they cause them to be sent to divers poor churches, to each church a chalice, provided we are forever in the prayers of the people worshipping in the said churches. We bequeath also to the Abbess and Nuns of Caen in Normandy £30, to pray for us. We bequeath also to our dear nephew, Humphrey de Bohun,² a gold nouch surrounded with large pearls, having a ruby in the midst set between four pearls, three diamonds between three pearls and three emeralds, and a pair of gold paternosters of fifty pieces having the large beads ['gaudez'] of stone, and a gold cross in which is a piece of the true cross of our Lord. We bequeath also to our niece Elizabeth of Northampton³ our bed having arms of England together with canopy, curtains, and ten [pieces of] tapestry. We bequeath to our niece, Lady Catharine D'Engayne⁴ £40 for her chamber. We bequeath also to our sister, the Countess of Ormond,⁵ two silver pots, twelve dishes and twelve saucers of silver for her house. We bequeath also to our brother my lord Hugh de Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, a large sapphire stone of delicate blue color. We bequeath also to our sister, the Countess of Devonshire,⁶ our green bed powdered with red roses, together with all the apparel, and a chaplet set with great sapphires and large pearls, and a basin, finally, in which we are accustomed to wash our head, which belonged to madam my mother. We bequeath also to the Abbot of Walden £40. To Sir Nicholas de Newton 100 marks. To Sir Thomas de Walmesford £40. To Sir Stephen atte Roche £20. To Sir William Agodeshalf £10. To Sir Walter Blount and to Marian his wife 100 marks and our best robe with mantle furred with menever, and the said Marian shall have charge of delivering entirely to our executors all our jewels and all our other things which she has charge of, except sheets and coverings which we wish should be divided among our young women, to pray for us. We bequeath also⁷ to Letice de Massendon £20. To Helen Smyth 10 marks. To Tamasine Belle 40 marks for her marriage, or more if she shall be well married. To John de Cherteseye 40 marks, if he shall give aid and attention to our executors. We bequeath to Robert Nobet and to Catharine, his wife, 40 marks. To Simon Peiche £20. To William Nobet £10. To John Mandeville 20 marks. To Ine de Sandhurst 20 marks. To brother William Belle £10. To John Atteford 10 marks. To Thomas Docking £20, if it shall not be advanced before our decease, and if it should be

¹ *Supra*, p. 633, note 4.

² His heir, the seventh Earl of Hereford.

³ Only daughter of his brother William, Earl of Northampton, married to Richard, son and heir to Edmund, Earl of Arundel. *Royal Wills*, 51, note; Dugdale, *Baronage*, I. 186.

⁴ Daughter of Hugh, Earl of Devon (husband of Margaret de Bohun), married to Thomas, Lord D'Engayne. *Dugdale* I. 467.

⁵ Eleanor, his elder sister, wife of James Butler, Earl of Ormond. See her father's will and its reference to her, *ante*, p. 424.

⁶ Margaret, his younger sister. See her will, *post*.

⁷ What follow are gifts apparently to the testator's servants.

advanced we wish that it should be no more than £10. To John atte Roche 40 shillings. To John Bonnallet' £10. To William of the wardrobe £10 and a robe with a mantle for all his pay ['fee']. To Henry Skinner 100 shillings. To John Middleton £10. To Richard Maldon 100 shillings. To Piers Peyn 10 marks. To William Hurl 20 marks and a robe. To Watkin Potter 100 shillings. To Walter of the chamber 20 marks and a robe. To Raunde of the chamber 100 shillings. To Henry of the chamber 40 shillings. To John Rolf 5 marks. To John Limner ['Luminour']¹ 40 shillings. To John red pottager ['rouge Potager'] 40 shillings. To William de Barton, spearman ['hastilier'], 40 shillings. To John Usher 40 shillings. To William Gamage 40 shillings. To John Ralgh, huntsman, forty shillings. To a boy for the farrier 20 shillings. To John Ravenston 40 shillings and an old robe, that is to say, coat and surcoat. To Robert de Legh'es 2 marks. To Salkyn Wystok two marks. To Benoyt of the kitchen 1 mark. To Whitenod 1 mark. To Gibbe Parker 1 mark. To Perimant 1 mark. To Roger Hergest 40 shillings, for livery ['laveurye'] of 1 boy 20 shillings. To six carters, each of them 5 marks, that is to say, to those who have staid longest with us, and to the others of less time according to their stay, by the judgment of our executors. To Master Thomas le Ferour² 5 marks. To Davy who is barber and waterman forty shillings. To a boy workman ['feurer'] 1 mark. And that none of our household aforesaid be paid if not living after our death and staying with us. We bequeath also to the executors of Stephen de Greveshende, late Bishop of London, 20 marks, the which we owe him. We wish also that all the expenses which our executors shall incur either by themselves or by others about the execution of our will they shall pay out of our goods; and [in regard to] the rest of our goods and chattels which are not bequeathed or paid, whatever it is in amount, we wish that it be sold and the moneys collected together and sent to London, and there, according to the judgment of our executors and the wisest brethren there, be appointed to pay our debts so that none shall be in arrears; and as to all the surplus we wish that it be divided and spent in divers alms, namely, in seven³ works of charity and in masses chanted by the holiest men wherever one can find them, and in other alms for the best and most availing profit for our soul. We wish also that according to the advice of our confessor and our executors allowance be made to all the parish churches where we have lived, so that nothing be in arrear of tithes or offerings or anything else which pertains to the right of the church, whatever it be. We wish also that all our jewels which remain to us after our debts [are paid], because we have had great delight in looking at them, that they all be sold and the money spent in divers alms according to the advice of our con-

¹ See *supra*, p. 420. The name no doubt designates the person's occupation — illuminator of manuscripts.

² Probably not a family name, but the farrier.

³ A holy number; the joys of the Virgin are sometimes reckoned as seven instead of five, but it is doubtful whether these are alluded to.

fessor and our executors. Of this our will we appoint and make as our executors brother William, Abbot of Walden, brother William Monkland, our confessor, Sir Nicholas de Newton, and Sir Thomas de Walmesford, and Sir Stephen atte Roche, our clerk. And we pray our very honorable father in God¹ that all these things may be done according to our will. We wish also and will that our executors employ a chaplain, who shall be of good condition, to go to Jerusalem² chiefly for my lady my mother and for my lord my father — to whom may God show true mercy — and for us, and that the chaplain be charged to say masses on the way, every time that he can conveniently, for our souls. And also let our executors employ a good man and true to go to Canterbury and offer there for us 40 shillings of silver; and another such man to go to Pontefract and offer there at the tomb of Thomas, late Earl of Lancaster, 40 shillings.³ We wish also that if we have forgotten to put in our will any of our servants, our executors shall find five chaplains all the year to chant for our soul and for the souls of those who have served us, and to pray for us. We will also and appoint that our executors take £100 and buy a parcel of land and enfeoff John de Mortimer and his children of his body begotten, and that the land be entailed so that it cannot be aliened, if the said John should then⁴ be living, and if he should be at God's command that they make an estate of inheritance forever to his children, to pray for us. We wish also and appoint that immediately after our death our executors and our confessor appoint chaplains, the holiest men they can find, as well secular as religious, to pray for us. In testimony whereof we have fixed our own seal to this will, in our presence in our castle of Plessy, the day and year above written. And because we are of mind to make a chantry with certain chaplains in honor of God and of our Lady and of Saint Anne, to pray for us in manner as shall be appointed, which thing was partly begun and then interrupted by the death of our dear brother, the Earl of Northampton,⁵ whom God assoil, we wish that if the said chantry shall not be finished in our lifetime our executors buy as much land [as is] of the true value of the manor of Dunmow⁶ and finish the said chantry in the Priory of Scoule,⁷ if they can agree, or elsewhere according as they can best do it. We wish also and will that after all these things [are] done, contained in our will above, our executors take 10,000 marks and spend the same by counsel and advice of the brethren above-named in chantries and other seven works of charity,

¹ Simon, Archbishop of Canterbury.

² As to pilgrimages see *Our Lady's Dowry*, ch. 9.

³ This was the Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who was defeated and taken prisoner at Boroughbridge, March 16, 1321-2, and executed for treason. To the son of his comrade of the Welch marches, and to the nation generally, he was now accounted saint and martyr.

⁴ At the testator's death.

⁵ His brother William, the distinguished military commander, who had died a few months before.

⁶ A Bohun manor in Essex, the subject of *The Flitch of Dunmow*.

⁷ See *ante*, p. 634, note 2.

according as they can best agree that it shall be best for our soul and also for paying debts if any should be in arrear. And let all the rest be spent as is above bequeathed in our said will.

(Probated before Simon, Archbishop of Canterbury, 19th October, A.D. 1361, at the New Temple, London.)

IV

Will of Humphrey de Bohun, seventh (nephew of the sixth) Earl of Hereford of the name. Born in 1341; died in Plessy Castle, Essex, January 26, 1373.¹ *Royal Wills*, 57, for the original.

In the name of God, I, Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton, and Constable of England, of good and sane memory, make my will the 12th day of December, in the year of grace one thousand three hundred seventy-two, in manner following. First, I bequeath my soul to God Almighty, to the benign Virgin Saint Mary, and to all the saints of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of the Abbey of Walden. And I give and bequeath all my goods and chattels, living and dead movables, and non-movables,² of whatever kind they may be, to master Simon by the grace of God Bishop of London,³ Sir ['Monsire'] Guy de Bryane, Sir ['Monsire'] John de Moulton, Sir ['Monsire'] Robert de Tye, John de Gyldeburgh, and Sir Philip de Melreth, to bury my body and to pay the debts of my honored lord and father,⁴ whom God assoil, and also to pay in full my own proper debts; and I will that my said body be buried and the debts of my said very honored lord and father, and also my own proper debts, be paid, and that the residue of all my goods and chattels be used for my soul and for the souls of those to whom I am bound, according to the disposition of the aforesaid bishop, Sir ['Monsire'] Guy, Sir ['Monsire'] John, Sir ['Monsire'] Robert, John, and Sir Philip, whom I make and appoint my executors of this my will, and for the oversight of this, Sir ['Monsire'] Richard, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, Joan, my very dear wife,

¹ He was the last Earl of Hereford, properly; having left daughters only, Eleanor and Mary, before mentioned. Henry Bolingbroke sometimes styled himself Earl of Hereford, in right of his wife, this Mary. The Staffords too, from 1403 to 1521, were styled, along with their other titles, earls of Hereford, through Anne, Countess of Stafford and daughter of Eleanor, Mary's elder sister. In 1550 Walter Devereux, also connected with the Bohuns, through female lines, was created Viscount Hereford, and the Devereux still hold that title.

² This does not mean, as it would now, lands; but just what it did mean is not clear. It was a common expression in wills. Perhaps it was intended as a mere comprehensive term, to cover, with the contrasting word 'movables,' all kinds of goods and chattels whatsoever, especially heirlooms.

³ Afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury; beheaded by Wat Tyler's mob, 1381.

⁴ His father (William, Earl of Northampton) had incurred heavy debts in providing for his French campaigns under the king. The king had reimbursed him only in part. *Rolls of Parl.* IV. 139; Dugdale's *Baronage*, I. 185.

and Adam Fraunceys, citizen of London. Given at Plessy the day and year aforesaid.

(Probated before William Whittlesey, Archbishop of Canterbury, 7th May, A.D. 1373.)

V

Will of Margaret de Courtenay, Countess of Devon, daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of Edward the First. Born about 1310; married to Hugh de Courtenay August 11, 1325; died December 16, 1391.

Translated from a transcript of the original MS. in the Public Record Office, London (2 Rous), specially furnished.¹

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I, Margaret de Courtenay, Countess of Devonshire, in good sound life and memory make this my will the 28th day of January, in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ 1390, in this manner. First, I commend my soul to God and to our Lady Saint Mary and to all the saints of heaven, and my body to be buried in the Cathedral Church of Exeter near my lord.² And I wish that my debts be first paid out of all my goods and chattels which I have on the day of my decease, and that satisfaction be made to all my servants if any of them be in arrear. And I will for my herce and pray my executors that there be no other herce around me except bars to save the people in the press from harm, and two tapers each of five pounds, the one at my head the other at my feet, without torches or other lights or work of carpentry around me. And I wish that on the day of my burial there be distributed among poor men and women £20, and that distribution be made first to women intending to set out for Egypt ['gisauntz en gypsyen']³ and to poor men and women who cannot go ['aler'], to each a groat, and then to my poor tenants the remainder. And I wish to be buried at the end of thirteen weeks, and that each day of the said time there shall be said for the souls of my lord and myself 'placebo et dirige,' and masses. And I bequeath for keeping house for the same time £100;

¹ In the margin of the MS., 'Testamentum Domine Margarite Curtenaye Comitisse Devonie matris Domini [Hugonis de Curtenaye, Comitiss Devonie].'

² That is, her husband, who had died thirteen years before. The word here and elsewhere in this will translated 'my lord' is 'Mounsire,' or perhaps 'Mounseigneur'; it is written 'Mounsr.' and 'Monstr.'

³ That is, on pilgrimage. 'Gisauntz,' which can hardly be from 'geter' or 'jeter,' much less from 'giser,' is probably from 'quider' ('cuidr'), pres. part. 'quisans,' Eng. 'guess' (compare 'quoth' and 'be-queath'), to be thinking or intending (to go). Skeat says that 'guess' is cognate with A.S. 'gitan,' Eng. 'get,' and that 'guess' at first probably meant 'to try to get.' *Etymological Dict.* 'Guess.' 'Trying to get to Egypt' would agree with the idea of the gift. Skeat does not mention 'quider.' On bequests for pilgrimages see Sharpe's *Calendar of Wills*, Introd. II. xxviii.; Bridgett, *Our Lady's Dowry*, chs. 9, 10.

if anything remains thereof I wish that so much in masses be chanted for my soul by the Friars Minorites of Exeter. And I wish that [memorial of] the day of my death shall be kept on the day after my interment. And I will for the souls of my lord and myself during the first year from my decease ten trentals.¹ Item, I bequeath for the souls of my lord and myself to the Friars Minorites of Exeter for chanting seven annual diriges £10. Item, to the Friars Preachers of Exeter for chanting three annuals £4, 10sh. Item, I will for the souls of my lord and myself that one hundred poor men be clothed in coats, hats, shirts ['chemys'],² and breeches ['breis'] and shoes. Item, I will for the souls of my lord and myself that £200 be distributed among the daughters of knights and gentlemen in aid of their marriage portions and to poor clerks³ to find [for them] at school, of which 100 marks to Margaret daughter of my son Philip de Courtenay, in aid of her marriage.⁴ Item, I bequeath for the shrine of Saint Albingh' £200. Item, I bequeath for my niece Courtenay of Canonlegh⁵ 60sh. Item, I bequeath to the Abbess of Canonlegh 14sh. 4d. and to each nun ['dame'] there 3sh. 4d. Item, I bequeath to the Prioress of Polslo 13sh. 4d. and to each nun ['dame'] there 3sh. 4d. Item, to the Prioress of Cornworth 13sh. 4d. and to each nun there 3sh. 4d. Item, to the sisters of Ilchester⁶ 13sh. 4d. Item, I bequeath to the Abbot and Convent of Ford⁷ 100sh. and to each monk ['moigne'] there 3sh. 4d. and to each friar ['frere'] there 2sh. Item, I bequeath to the Prior and Convent of Henton Charterhouse 100sh. Item, I bequeath to the Prior of Bearliche and to the canons there 40sh. Item, I bequeath to our Lady of Walsingham my ring with which I was espoused and 40sh. Item, I bequeath to the Friars Preachers of Exeter 40sh. Item, to the Friars Minorites £10. Item, I pray, my very honored son [Archbishop] of Canterbury⁸ that the said Friars Minorites have £6, 13sh. 4d. to buy off a mark of rent which they carry out of their house yearly.⁹ Item, to the said friars a silver 'fessour'.¹⁰ Item, to brother John Trewynt 100sh. Item, I bequeath to the Bishop

¹ That is (it seems) ten times the thirty masses on thirty days, or three hundred masses in as many days.

² Speaking of the effigy of Richard the First at Fontevraud, as engraved by Stothard, Fairholt (*Costume*, I. 91) says: 'His tunic is white, and under this appears his camise or shirt.'

³ Clergy.

⁴ This provision in regard to marriage portions and poor clerks at school recalls the language of the famous Statute of Elizabeth in regard to gifts to charities. 43 Eliz. c. 4. See 1 Jarman, *Wills*, 200, 6th Am. ed. (Bigelow).

⁵ Canon Hill, Dorset?

⁶ In Somerset.

⁷ Near Exeter.

⁸ This is the William de Courtenay before whom Wiclif had been summoned in 1377. He was then Bishop of London.

⁹ Interest at 10 per cent.

¹⁰ Utensil for dressing the vine. Jaubert's *Glossaire*, 'Fessour, fessoir.' 'Pioche large au milieu de la lame et terminée en pointe.' 'Houe, pioche pour les jardins.' Vayssier's *Dict.*, 'Fessou.' Compare the gift to-day of a silver trowel.

John Ware 60sh. Item, I bequeath to each of the four orders, that is to say, Preachers, Minorites, Carmelites, Austins, 100sh. for their Chapter-general. Item, I bequeath for putting upon the high altar of Crukern¹ 20sh. Item, [upon] the altar of Colyton, 30sh. Item, upon the altar of Exminster 40sh. Item, upon the altar of the Church of Okehampton 30sh. Item, upon the altar of the Church of Chulmley 30sh. Item, upon the altar of the Church of Plympton 30sh. Item, I bequeath for the repair of the chancel of Colyford 40sh. Item, for the repair of the chancel of Musbury marsh² 40sh. Item, I bequeath to the Cathedral Church of Exeter a pair of basins which were for [washing] the hands of my lord for every day for ministering at the high altar. Item, I bequeath to William my son, Archbishop of Canterbury, a gilt chalice and my missal which I had from Sir William Weston, and my best bed with all the apparel which he may wish to choose, and my diamond which I had from Joan my daughter and 40 marks for a vestment and a silver gilt goblet ['godet'] which I had from my brother of Northampton.³ And I wish that the aforesaid bed, after the decease of my said very honored son, remain in the Priory of Canterbury. Item, I bequeath to my said very honored son a pair of silver basins with the arms of Courtenay on the bottom, with God's blessing and my own. Item, I bequeath to Sir ['Monsire'] John Cobham⁴ a silver hanap with cover [having the figure] of an eagle. Item, to my daughter Cobham £40. Item, to my daughter Luttrell £40 of that which she owes me and a tablet of wood painted for each day, for the altar,⁵ and my tablet of Cypress [Ipres work ?] with the [figure of a] hand, and my book called Tristram. Item, to my daughter Dengayne £40 and my two primers, and a book called Artur de Britaigne.⁶ Item, I bequeath to my son, Earl of Devonshire, all my swans in the town of Toppesham and twelve dishes and twelve saucers of silver and two silver chargers. Item, to my daughter, the countess, his wife £20. Item, I bequeath to my son Philip de Courtenay all my chapel [furnishing] with books, vestments, candlesticks, censers, surplices and all other appurtenances of my said chapel, except what I have otherwise willed by my testament. Item, a silver hanap, covered and gilt, which belonged to the Bishop of Exeter, and a pair of basins enamelled in the bottom with the arms of Hereford and Courtenay quartered. Item, a wagon ['caru'] with all the apparel, at Thurlston. Item, another at Yelton and another at Brodewyndesore,⁷ and the crucifix which I have carried for my worship and that Richard, his son, shall have it after his descease, with God's blessing and mine. Item, I bequeath to my daughter

¹ In Dorset.

² This was not the only Church-in-the-Marsh; there was a church of Stratford-in-the-Marsh — the Stratford near London. Most of the places just named in the text bear the same names still, and are in Devonshire.

³ William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton.

⁴ Her son-in-law.

⁵ See Inventory, *ante*, p. 430, among effects of *Eleanor*, sister of testatrix.

⁶ The original, probably, of the romances of King Arthur.

⁷ Broad Windsor, in Dorset.

Lady Anne Courtenay a ring having a diamond, which I had from herself, [the ring being?] of gold chains,¹ and £20. Item, I bequeath to Peter, my son, my red and green bed striped, with all the apparel, together with a Holland quilt ['quntepoynt'] striped with peacock's feathers and red velvet, a pair of sheets of Liège² linen [figured] with quatrefoils, together with the best coverlet of menever, and a pair of silver basins having the arms of Hereford and Courtenay quartered in the bottom, enamelled, and a wagon ['carru'] with the apparel at 'Esteoker,' with God's blessing and mine. Item, to Sir ['Monsire'] Hugh Luttrell six dishes and six saucers of silver. Item, I bequeath to Richard Courtenay certain silver vessels of the value of £100, and that my very honored son of Canterbury have them in his keeping until he shall be of full age. And if he die under age, that my said very honored son dispose of them for my soul. Item, I bequeath to Hugh, son of the Earl of Devonshire, my little [grand] son, six dishes and six saucers of a sort. Item, I bequeath to Anneys Chamber[n]on³ £13, 6sh. 8d. and a book of 'Medycynys et Marchasye,' and another book called 'Vices and Virtues,'⁴ and a book called 'Merlyn.'⁵ Item, to Alyson Anst 60 shillings. Item, to Margaret Drayton, my little [grand] daughter, £10, the which I have for her in my keeping, and also that she have £20 in the distribution of the £200 aforesaid. Item, I bequeath to the altar of the tomb of my lord and myself six towels having six frounces and twelve other towels, six pieces of linen for the altar, six albs, six amices having the apparel, six chasubles, six stoles together with six fanons, and two cruets of the round sort. Item, I bequeath to Thomas Staneys my beautiful diamond which I had from the queen.⁶ Item, to Sir Stephen the hermit ['Lermyte']⁷ of Crukern 40 shillings. Item, to John Radston 100 shillings. Item, to William Bykebury, to stock his lands, £20. Item, I wish that little Richard Hydon have 100 shillings of the £200 aforesaid, and that it be put to increase for him. Item, to Richard Trist 60 shillings (of the £200 aforesaid and that it be put to increase for him).⁸ Item, to

¹ 'Un anel ove un dyamaunt qe ieavoye de luy mesmes de Cheynes dor.'

² A town in modern Belgium.

³ Probably the familiar Devonshire name Champernown, a family settled there before the time of this will (*Gentleman's Magazine*, III. 156, ed. Gomme), though, strangely enough, not appearing in the Index to *Calendarium Genealogicum*.

⁴ 'Vices and Virtues' appears also in the will of Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, *post*, p. 647. The MS. has been printed by the Early Eng. Text Society, London, 1888, under the title, 'Vices and Virtues, being a soul's confession of its sins with Reason's description of the Virtues. A Middle-English dialogue of about A.D. 1200.' Edited by F. Holthausen.

⁵ Early Eng. Text Society, Wheatley; also in Geoffrey of Monmouth. And see Ellis, *Early English Metrical Romances*.

⁶ Probably Isabella, wife of her uncle, Edward the Second.

⁷ As to bequests to hermits and anchorites see Sharpe's *Calendar of Wills*, Introd. II. xxi. Most of the legatees following were probably of the household of the testatrix.

⁸ The words in parenthesis inserted, 'vacat.'

my monk¹ of Donkeswelle 40 shillings. Item, to Sir Henry Brokelond 40 shillings. Item, to Sir John Dodyngton six dishes, six saucers of silver, and my red missal, and a lean colt. Item, to Sir John Stowford 60 shillings. Item, to Sir Laurens Hankyn 100 shillings. Item, to Sir John Hamond 60 shillings. Item, to Sir Nell Brode 40 shillings. Item, to Sir Thomas Attelee 100 shillings. Item, to Sir John Dagnel, parson of Ken, 40 shillings. Item, to Sir Walter [architect ?] of my lord's tomb 60 shillings. Item, to Otis Chambernon 100 shillings and a good colt. Item, to Henry Burton £13, 6sh. 8d. and the best horse-colt which he may wish to choose. Item, to Jankyn Farewey 60 shillings. Item, to William Amadas 60 shillings. Item, to Jankyn Baret 40 shillings. Item, to the Bishop of Exeter the best gold paternoster which I have. Item, to the Abbot of Clyve 60 shillings. Item, to John Roger £10. Item, to John Spore 60 shillings. Item, to Simkin, clerke of the kitchen 100 shillings. Item, to Robert Halle 60 shillings. Item, to Baldwin Haghell 60 shillings. Item, to William Fychet 60 shillings. Item, to John Blessy 100 shillings. Item, to William Rohe 40 shillings. Item, to John Freke 40 shillings. Item, to Richard Baldwin 40 shillings. Item, to Walter Secher 40 shillings. Item, to Roger Thorneston 40 shillings. Item, to Thomasyn Lavandre² 40 shillings. Item, to Alice her handmaid ['damisel'] 13sh. 4d. Item, to John Damisel Gardiner³ of Exminster 13sh. 4d. Item, to William Allen 13sh. 4d. Item, to Thomas Perkyn 20 shillings. Item, to Bertlot 20 shillings. Item, to Walter Squillere 13sh. 4d. Item, to Thomas Love 13sh. 4d. Item, to Andrew Baker 13sh. 4d. Item, to John Hicks 13sh. 4d. Item, to William Type 40 shillings of the £200 aforesaid. Item, to William Porter 20 shillings. Item, to Bendbowe 13sh. 4d. Item, to Walter, page of the stable, 13sh.⁴ Item, to John Matford 13sh. 4d. And I bequeath all the residue of all my goods and chattels not willed in this my testament to my said very honored son the Archbishop of Canterbury to dispose of for my soul. And I make and appoint my said very honored son, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Sir ['Monsire'] John Cobham overseers ['surueyours'] of this my testament to oversee that all my will be accomplished. And for accomplishing this my testament I make and appoint as my executors my very dear sons Philip de Courtenay, Peter de Courtenay, Robert Wylford, Sir John Dodyngton, Otis Chambernoun and Stephen Denclve for the performing⁵ [the same] under the oversight of the said overseers in manner as aforesaid.⁶

[Probate not given.]

¹ With 'mon moigne' compare 'monsire,' in the usage of the time. Both denote intimacy.

² Tamasin of the laundry, probably.

³ *Sic*; but not to be taken as a person having three names. 'Gardiner' probably signifies occupation. 'Damsel' is odd.

⁴ These items, '13sh. 4d.' being a mark, it is probable that there is an omission here of the '4d.'

⁵ Redundant words.

⁶ Of the many great estates of the testatrix (Dugdale's *Baronage*, I. 640, for the

VI

Will of Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, elder daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, last Earl of Hereford, and widow of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester. Born in 1359; died in Plessy Castle, Essex, October 3, 1399.¹ *Royal Wills*, 177, for the original.

In the name of God, amen. I, Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, Countess of Essex, &c., being of good and sane memory, in my castle of Plessy, the ninth day of August, the year of our Lord one thousand three hundred and ninety-nine according to the course of the Church of England, regarding and considering the evils and uncertainties of this variable and transitory world, appoint and intend ['devise'] my last will and testament as follows. First, I commend my soul entirely to the great and innumerable mercies of our all powerful and very merciful Lord Jesus Christ, asking for the aid of his holy mother, the very humble Virgin, our very sweet Lady Saint Mary, of my Lord John the Baptist, and of all the company of heaven. Item, I will for my burial that my body be buried in the Church of Westminster Abbey, in the Chapel of Saint Edmund the King and of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, near the body of my lord and husband Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, and seventh son of King Edward the Third, and should it happen that the body of my said lord² and husband in time to come should be removed I wish that my body repose and remain in the aforesaid chapel and place.³ And I will and appoint that on the day of my burial my executors provide that my body be covered with a piece of black tapestry with a white cross and escutcheon of my arms in the midst of the said cross, and four round wax tapers and seven plain lamps standing at

list), one, Powderham, near Exeter, brought by her to her husband, is still the seat of the earls of Devon. The present earl, a descendant of one of the younger sons of the testatrix, is Rev. Henry Hugh Courtenay, Rector of Powderham. From the Courtenays, through the Grenvilles of Devon and Cornwall, has descended the distinguished family of Drakes of Ashe and other places in Devon; one of whom, John Drake, of Wiscombe, came to New England in 1630 and settled in Windsor, Connecticut, about 1636. From him, and two others of the Drake family who followed some years later, there are many descendants now living in the United States.

¹ On the murder of her husband Eleanor took the religious habit in the convent of Barking, Essex. She was buried in Saint Edmund's chapel, Westminster Abbey, as she had requested, under a monument of marble having beautifully inlaid upon it, in brass, an effigy of herself at full length, in the garb of a nun. The effigy still remains. A full-page cut of it is given in Sandford's *Genealogical History*, opp. p. 229.

² The original, in *Royal Wills*, here and elsewhere is 'mon seigneur.'

³ Her husband had at first been buried in the College of Canons-regular, founded by him at Plessy; whence his remains were removed to Westminster Abbey and placed under a monument in marble, inlaid with brass, containing full-length figures of himself, wife, father, mother, brothers, and sisters. A full-page cut is given by Sandford opp. p. 231. The monument was long since robbed of its brass. Eleanor seems to have feared that her husband's remains might be removed again.

the four corners. And let there be fifteen men specially chosen for their loyalty to and fear of God, of whatever age or utter poverty, according to the discretion of my executors, each of the said poor men holding a torch, that is to say, five at the head and five at each side, and let each of the said poor men be dressed in a gown, a hood, and a pair of breeches of good strong blue cloth of deep color, and let the said gowns and hoods be lined with white; also let there be given to each of them a pair of shoes and a pair of linen shirts and twenty pence silver ['esterlinges']¹ to pray for my soul and for the soul of my lord and husband aforesaid, and for all the living and dead in particular to whom I am bound, and for all Christians. Item, touching the aforesaid tapers [and] lamps, let there be no torches nor any other manner of lights around my dead body except only at the time of divine service, and, that done, the rest of the tapers, lamps, and torches be given to the service of the said chapel in which I am buried.² Item, I bequeath to the Convent of Monks of the said Abbey of Westminster on the day of my burial £10 of money for their pittance. Item, I bequeath to be distributed among the poor, according to the judgment of my executors, on the same day 100 shillings. Item, I bequeath to the Abbess and Convent of Sister Minoresses near London, without the gate of Aldgate, on the same day, for their pittance £6, 13sh. 4d. and a small tun of good wine. Item, I bequeath to the Prior and Convent of Lanthony near Gloucester £13, 8sh. 6d. And to Sir William Sheldon, canon of the said place, 100 shillings. Item, I bequeath to the Church and Abbey of Walden, where my lord and father, Humphrey de Bohun, last Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton, Constable of England, is buried a vestment, with field of balderkin³ blue, diapered with other colors, [figured] with harts on cloth of gold of Ipres⁴ work, that is to say, two table-furnishings, a frontel, a chasuble, two tunics, a cope, three albs, three amices, together with the paraphernalia pertaining to them, and the gold fringes of the said vestment, the whole being of fine gold of Ipres, the field

¹ At this time (1399) the esterling or silver penny contained 18 grains of silver (Shaw's *History of Currency*, 43; *ante*, p. 424, notes), a little more than two pence to-day, or about 4½ cents. Twenty esterlings would therefore amount to 90 cents; which multiplied by 15 to get at the purchase-power in labor of to-day, gives \$13.50 as the money gift to each of the fifteen poor men.

² With the provision for poor men and lights at the funeral, compare the following from the will of Sir Thomas Brooks, *Fifty Earliest English Wills*, 129 (1438-9): 'And also that ther be xiii pore men clothid in white, holdyng eche of hem a torghe brennyng at the dirige and at the masse yn the day of my obyte. And afterward the torgis to be dalt iii of hem to the Chirch of Thornecombe, and the remaynande of the torgis to x of the nedyst paryschirches yn the Cuntre by sidys.' As to the number thirteen, see *ante*, p. 631, note 3.

³ Cloth from the East of the richest kind — 'pannus omnium ditissimus' — of silk and gold thread. Du Cange. See also Sharpe's *Calendar of Wills*, Introd. II. xii., where it is said to be a rich brocade woven with gold thread.

⁴ Made at Ipres in Flanders. Ipres is here and elsewhere written 'Cypre,' just as Ipswich constantly appears in early times as 'Gipswich.' The cloth here referred to is generally called at the time gold of Cypres cloth.

red. Item, I appoint and will that my executors celebrate, within as short time after my death as they can, a thousand masses for my soul; twenty of the Assumption of our Lady, one hundred and fifty of the Requiem, fifty of my Lord Saint John the Baptist, fifty of Saint John the Evangelist, fifty of Saint Leonard, thirty of All Saints, fifty for the soul of Thomas sometime Duke of Gloucester, twenty of the Nativity of our Lord, twenty of the Resurrection, twenty of the Ascension, fifty of Saint Michael Archangel, twenty¹—; and as to all these said masses, before the priest begins 'Et ne nos,' the said priest shall say aloud, turning towards the people, 'For the souls of Thomas sometime Duke of Gloucester and Eleanor his wife and all Christian souls for charity, pater noster,'² and [then] shall he turn towards the altar and say in secret a pater noster and begin the mass; and in all the said masses shall be said the prayer of 'Deus qui es summa nostrae redemptionis, spes, qui in terra promissionis,' &c., with the 'secretum' and 'post communionem' and the names of my said lord and myself, the said Thomas and Eleanor. Item, I bequeath to madam, my mother, the Countess of Hereford,³ a pair of coral paternosters having fifty large beads, five of them of gold, in the form of 'longets swages,'⁴ and stamped, asking each day some blessing entirely for my poor soul. And in case my said lady die before me, then I bequeath the said paternosters to the Abbess of the Church of Sister Minoreesses aforesaid, to remain there in the said abbey from that time forth for a memorial of me. Item, I bequeath to my son Humphrey⁵ a bed of black cloth damask. Item, a bed of silk balderkin, the field blue, with white fabrics and canopy entire,⁶

¹ No designation of these, or of the remaining; only 510 are here mentioned, including the twenty unnamed.

² This is in English in the will, and was so to be spoken, so that the audience might all understand.

³ Joan, fourth daughter of Richard Fitz-Alan, fifth Earl of Arundel. She survived her husband forty-six years, dying April 7, 1419.

⁴ The first of these words has not been met with elsewhere. The second word occurs again, lower down, in this will, and also in the following sentence in the will of Richard, sixth Earl of Arundel, husband of Elizabeth, daughter of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton: 'Item, deux chaundelers d'argent . . . ove haut pees et mees eschochouns pendantz ove trois quatres sur mesmes les chandelers et les *suages* enbataillez et enorrez.' *Royal Wills*, 129. It is probably our word 'swage,' which as a noun means a tool or die for imparting a given shape to metal when hot. The instrument is of many forms. See cuts in *Century Dictionary*, 'Swage.' The verb means, of course, to shape in a swage. Compare also the noun 'swag,'—in decorative art an irregular or informal cluster: as a swag of flowers in the engraved decoration of a piece of plate, *Century Dictionary*.

Rosaries such as the one here mentioned were worn by the rich as ornaments, usually being suspended from the girdle. The beads were often very large.

⁵ Her only son the Earl of Buckingham, sent out of the way into Ireland by the king (a fact alluded to below, in this will), and afterwards imprisoned there. Released on the accession of Henry the Fourth, and sent for by the king, he lost his life on the way home, before the death of his mother.

⁶ 'Celour entier.' In English of the time 'hool celure.' *Fifty Earliest English Wills*, 5, last line. 'Celour' occurs also as 'ceil' and 'ciel.'

testerns, coverlets, curtains, and tapestry belonging to it. Item, two pairs of Rennes¹ linen sheets, the one pair having [figured] trefoils, the other quatrefoils. Item, three pairs of sheets of other linen cloth of best quality. Item, a pair of fustians,² two pairs of blankets, two mattresses of best quality with all belongings and stuff, which were delivered to his servants on his departure from London for Ireland. Item, a cup of beryl engraved, having a long handle, and set upon a gold foot, with a wide border above, and a cover all of gold, with one large sapphire upon the handle of the said cover. Item, a Chronicle of France in French, with two silver clasps, enamelled with the arms of the Duke of Burgoyne. Item, one book of Giles³ De Regimine Principum. Item, a book of Vices and Virtues,⁴ and another poem of the story of Chivaler a Cigne,⁵ all in French. Item, a psalter well and richly illuminated, with gold clasps enamelled with white swans, and the arms of my lord and father enamelled on the clasps, and other bars of gold with work in form of mullets, which psalter was given to me to remain to my heirs, and so 'from heir to heir aforesaid.'⁶ Item, a coat of mail having a cross of brass marked on the spot opposite the heart, which belonged to my lord his [my son's] father. Item, a cross of gold hanging by a chain, having a figure of the crucifix and four pearls

¹ A town in France.

² Fustian was, it seems, a kind of thick twilled cotton; here of bed-clothing. See Fairholt; Sharpe's *Calendar of Wills*, II. xii.

³ Ægidius, or Giles, a disciple of Thomas Aquinas. The book referred to was a long one, on the education and governing of princes. A metrical translation ('Governail of Princes') was made a little later by Occleve or Hoccleve. In Shaw's *Dresses and Decorations*, II., there is a plate of Occleve kneeling and presenting a copy of his translation to the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry the Fifth, nephew of the testatrix. Thomas Wright edited the poem of Occleve for the Roxburghe Club, in 1860. See also *Specimens of English Literature*, by Skeat.

⁴ See *ante*, p. 642, will of the Countess of Devon, great-aunt of the present testatrix.

⁵ To this Knight of the Swan, a mythical personage, the Bohuns and other great people professed to trace their ancestry. Hence the badge of the swan, with the Bohuns. But knights in general were sworn before the swan. On Whitsuntide, in 1306, the king conferred knighthood, as we are picturesquely told by Piers Langtoft (*Siege of Carlaverock*, Nicolas, 194), Trivetius, and others, upon the Prince of Wales and three hundred more (by *Chron. of London*, p. 41, 'there he doubbed cclxxx knyghtes') in splendor. Two swans in trappings of gold are brought before the altar; the king is in the midst of the feast, surrounded by the new knights; and now a multitude ('multitudo') of minstrels enter in gay attire and call upon the knights, especially the new ones, to make vow of arms 'coram cygno.' Trivetius, 342; *Siege of Carlaverock*, Nicolas, 370. Then the king himself swears 'before heaven and the swans' to avenge the murder of Comyn by Bruce. Matthew of Westminster, anno 1306. 'The Swanne is goon,' sang a poet on the death (1446) of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, son of Mary de Bohun and Henry Bolingbroke, Protector of Henry the Sixth and Father of his Country. *Battle Abbey Roll*, I. 73, Duchess of Cleveland.

⁶ The only explanation of the word 'aforesaid' is, that this is a quotation from the terms of the gift, perhaps a will. The book was in law an heirloom, and being a present to the testatrix as an heirloom, was probably illuminated by 'our illuminator.' See *ante*, p. 420.

around it, with my blessing, as a thing of mine which I most love.¹ Item, I bequeath to my daughter Anne² a pinner ['espinier,' apron] of linen cloth, bordered on the sides with red 'Accuby' and embroidered, and surrounded with a band not embroidered. Item, a beautiful book and well illuminated in gilt lettering, in French. Item, the best palfrey I have. . . .³ Item, a pair of gold paternosters containing [beads for] thirty Aves,⁴ and four jet ornaments, which belonged to my lord and husband, her father, with my blessing. Item, I bequeath to my daughter Joan⁵ a bed of silk of black balderkin, the best. Item, a bed of cloth of gold of Ipres having [figures of] swans and the letter Y, with canopy entire. Item, a little bed of white tartary worked with lions and swans, with canopy entire for a small room ['closet'] and of these said beds which want curtains with tapestry, I wish that such be bought suitable for them according to the advice of my executors. Item, two pairs of Rennes linen sheets, the one pair [figured] with trefoils, the other with quatrefoils. Item, four pairs of sheets of other linen cloth of the best. Item, two mattresses, one pair of fustians, three pairs of blankets, besides all the jewels together with their belongings to be to her own use.⁶ Item, twelve dishes and twelve saucers of silver, marked with my arms. Item, a silver gilt hanap having a cover, and stamped with mottoes of April, and standing upon a foot. Item, a flat basin and a ewer of silver having my arms enamelled on the rim of the said basin and the 'swages'⁷ gilt. Item, six pieces of new silver [plate] and two silver quart pots and twelve silver spoons. Item, a book having the psalter, primer,⁸ and other devotions, with two gold clasps enamelled with my arms, which book I have much used, with my blessing. Item, I bequeath to my daughter Isabella, sister of the aforesaid Minoresses, a bed of cloth of gold of Ipres, striped black and red, with canopy entire, testern, coverlet, curtains, and tapestry. Item, a French Bible in two volumes, having two gold clasps enamelled with the arms of France. Item, a book of Decretals in French. Item, a book of Mystery Stories.⁹ Item, a book 'De Vitis

¹ All the foregoing to Humphrey; but the gifts lapsed by his untimely death. See *supra*.

² Afterwards Countess of Stafford, ancestress of the Devereux, Viscounts of Hereford.

³ *Sic*.

⁴ The salutation to the Virgin Mary — 'Hail, Mary,' etc. See *Fifty Earliest English Wills*, 58, l. 26.

'To number Ave Marias on his beads.' — *Shakespeare*.

The word 'aves' is here printed 'ariez,' an obvious error of the types.

⁵ Afterwards married to Gilbert, Lord Talbot of Godrick Castle and Blackmere.

⁶ Here follow the words 'devant lescriv . . . [sic] de cestis,' containing some incompletely expressed idea. Perhaps the testatrix meant to say, 'before the writing of this will delivered to her.'

⁷ See the note *supra*.

⁸ Prayer-book for the laity, containing (*inter alia*) 'elementary instructions and prayers, as the creed, Lord's prayer, angelic salutation, and ten commandments.' Bridgett, *Our Lady's Dowry*, 158. On p. 159 the passage *supra* is quoted. See also *id.* 421.

⁹ There were various books of 'meistre histories.' A collection called 'Early Mys-

Patrum,' and the Pastorals of Saint Gregory. Item, an old psalter as far as the nocturn of 'Exultate,' glossed, another new book of the psalter glossed from the prayer 'Domine exaudi' as far as 'Omnis spiritus laudet dominum.' The said books are in French. Item £40 in money. Item, a girdle of black leather having a buckle and pendant and twelve round and plain bars of gold, which belonged to my lord and husband, her¹ father, the which he used much in life and afterwards had in his last sickness,² with my blessing. Item, I appoint and will that my debts be well and legally paid and my will performed, that all the rest of my goods movable and non-movable³ shall remain in the hands of my executors and executrix for each to dispose of among my poor servants, and to do and appoint for the soul of my said lord and husband and my own, and for all the living and dead to whom we have been bound, according to the discretion and disposition of my executors and executrix, with the assent of my overseers. Item, I prohibit all my children and each of them, as far as I can, from disturbing my executors in any way in distributing any manner of my said goods according to my desire and will and their discretion. I appoint and will that if it should happen that any of my said children should die before me,⁴ or before they are of age a year after my death, all the goods which I have bequeathed to them remain at the disposal of my executors like my other proper goods, to do for themselves and for me according to their good advice and discretion, except the £40 and the girdle which I have bequeathed to my daughter Isabella [which] I wish to go to the Abbess and Church of Sister Minoreesses aforesaid, according as happens to my said daughter Isabella. To this my last will, appointment, and testament, I appoint, make, and establish these my executors and executrix, Sir ['Monsire'] Jerard Braybrook Jr., Sibilla Beauchamp, John de Boys, steward of my house, Sir Nicholas Miles, parson of Debden,⁵ Sir Hugh Painter, chaplain of my free chapel in the castle of Plessy, Sir William Underwood, parson of Dedham, William Newbole, and my overseers, Sir Robert Exeter, Prior of Christ Church in London, my very dear cousin Sir ['Monsire'] Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester, my worthy friend Sir Thomas de Stanley, clerk of Rolles.⁶ In testimony of which my last will, appointment, bequest, and testament, I have myself written these presents and put my seal [thereto] the year, day, and place above stated.

ALIANORE &c. +

(Blank left for probate).

MELVILLE M. BIGELOW.

teries and other Latin Poems of the twelfth and thirteenth Centuries,' was edited by Thomas Wright, London, 1838.

¹ Isabella's.

² He was put to death by smothering; but his widow must needs veil the fact.

³ See *supra*, p. 638 note 2.

⁴ The death of her son Humphrey came within this provision.

⁵ To which he was presented July 18, 1387, by the Duke of Gloucester, husband of the testatrix, in her right.

⁶ Perhaps in the Chancery.